

Message Text

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45

ACTION AID-59

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FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0818

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, AG

SUBJ: TRANS-SAHARAN SHIPMENT

AFDROUGHT

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WA; ROME FOR FODAG; PARIS FOR RFC

1. CONVOY NO. 1 DEPARTED ORAN SATURDAY, JULY 20
ACCOMPANIED BY LOUIS GININEZ VIS NEWS CORRESPONDENT.
CONVOY WAS ORIGINALLY TO REFUEL AND REPROVISION IN
ADRAR BUT LAST MINUTE HITCH INVOLVING CUSTOMS CLEARANCE
BROUGHT ABOUT A HALT AT BECHAR. THE WORDS "IN TRANSIT
FOR NIGER" ON ORIGINAL BILL OF LADING, ADDENDUM NOT
WITHSTANDING, HAVE PROVIDED PROBLEMS WHICH
ARE STILL IN PROCESS OF BEING RESOLVED. STEPS ARE BEING
TAKEN TO CORRECT THIS, AND IT IS HOPED ENTIRE CONVOY
WILL BE ABLE TO PROCEED TOWARDS GAO WITHIN NEXT 48 HOURS.

2. CONVOY NO. 2 IS EXPECTED TO DEPART FOR GAO VIA
ADRAR BY THIS AFTERNOON JULY 22. CONVOYS NO. 3 AND 4
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SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE FOR ADRAR WITHIN THE NEXT

48 HOURS. ARRANGMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR AN INTERVAL OF TWO DAYS BETWEEN DISPATCH OF CONVOYS FROM ADRAR, AND I AM TOLD THESE WILL BE STRICTLY OBSERVED.

3. DISCHARGE OF VESSEL HAS PROCEEDED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. ALL BAGS IN HOLD CONTAINING 578 M/T CARGO HAD BEEN OFFLOADED BY SUNDAY NOON. ALL OF SORGHUM CARGO IN FORWARD HOLD SHOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY NOON OF TODAY, AND LYKES IS EXPECTED TO SAIL SHORTLY THEREAFTER. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF 137 BAGS IN AFT HOLD, PROBABLY ACCOUNTABLE TO BREAKAGE EITHER IN LOADING VESSEL OR WHILE BEING HANDLED BY DOCKERS PRIOR UNLOADING IN ORAN.

4. WHERE ACTUAL UNLOADING GRAIN IS CONCERNED THE USE OF TRUSSES RATHER THAN SWINGS HAS EXPOSED A BIG FLAW WHICH IN FFPO'S OPINION REQUIRES IMMEDIATE CORRECTION BAGS HAVE A TENDENCY TO SPLIT AT CORNERS OR ALONG SEAM FOLLOWED BY SEWING MACHINE. FURTHER DETERIORATION IS FEARED AS TRUCKS PROCEED ACCROSS THE SAHARA.

5. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SNTR CONTRACT DID NOT STIPULATE THAT ALL TRUCKS USED IN THIS OPERATION SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH SIDE-BOARDS. AS A RESULT A NUMBER OF TRUCKS WITHOUT SIDING ARE BEING EMPLOYED ENTIRE CARGO HOWEVER IS FIRMLY SECURED BY TARPULINS AND WIRE HAWSERS TO TRUCK BED. DRIVERS WHO HAVE CROSSED THE SAHRAR TO GAO AS MANY AS SEVEN TIMES INSIST THAT THIS PROTECTION IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE. WE SHALL SEE.

6. IT IS POINTLESS REPEAT POINTLESS TO SHIP ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES TO ORAN/ALGIERS IN TRANSIT TO GAO UNLESS AND UNTIL (A) THE TRUCKS HAVE REACHED THEIR DESTINATION AND THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN FULLY EVALUATED AND (B) UNTIL RDO DAKAR RECEIVES AN INDICATION THAT GAO FOOD REQUIREMENTS EXCEED WHAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE COMBINED AIRLIFT AND THE FIRST FOUR TRANS-SAHARA CONVOYS. THOUGH I WILL UPGRADE INFORMATION PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE FROM ORAN, AS OF THIS DATE, TENTATIVE ARRIVALS OF CONVOYS AT BOTH GAO AND TESSALIT ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) GAO: FIRST CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR ARRIVAL ON OR ABOUT JULY 31, SECOND ON AUGUST2, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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THIRD ON AUGUST 4 AND THE FINAL CONVOY, A THEORETICAL TEN TRUCKS, ON AUGUST 6. (B) TESSALIT: THOUGH THE FINAL CONVOY WILL DEPART FROM ADRAR ON OR ABOUT JULY 29 THAT PORTION (TEN TRUCKS) OF TIT WHICH IS DESTINED FOR TESSALIT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT TESSALIT ON AUGUST2. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF CONVOY TO DELIVER THE SORGHUM TO THE COMMANDANT DU CERCLE OF TESSALIT. IN THE CASE OF GAO, FOOD IS CONSIGNED TO GOVERNOR OF GAO, BUT

DELIVERED TO OPAM DIRECTOR FOR STORAGE IN WAREHOUSES.

7. IT IS FIRMLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL CONCERNED THAT GOM
AUTHORITIES IN BOTH LOCATIONS AND BORDER CROSSING POINTS
HAVE BEEN FULLY ALERTED TO THESE ARRIVALS AND THAT ALL
POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE TRUCKERS
WHERE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND UNLOADING ARE CONCERNED.SIMPSON

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